

what's new FALL '06 IN CALIFORNIA



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Editor's Note

There is always something new and exciting in California. As your resource for statewide news, the California Travel and Tourism Commission (CTTC) is pleased to present this release describing new developments taking place in the various regions of the Golden State. Consumers can get free California travel planning information by visiting CTTC's Web site at www.visitcalifornia.com or by writing to the address above.

Residents of the United States and Canada can also receive travel planning information by calling (800) 862-2543. International travelers need to dial (916) 444-4429.



CABBI Launches Beds, Bikes & Breakfast

The California
Association of

Bed and Breakfast Inns (CABBI) launched its newest travel program: Beds, Bikes & Breakfast. More than 80 CABBI B&Bs throughout California are officially designated as bike-friendly and offer secured bike storage facilities and hearty breakfasts to fuel a day of two-wheeled sightseeing. Many inns also offer laundry facilities and area bike trail maps. Some inns provide complimentary or rental bikes for guest use. Travelers interested in finding bike-friendly B&Bs can visit www.cabbi.com and search for inns marked with a bicycle icon. CABBI's free Travel Guide Map, also available online, pinpoints where each B&B is located so cyclists can plan their next adventure whether they are avid riders or recreational cruisers. Media contact: Erin Bernall, (831) 479-9290, erin@bernall.com. Public contact: California Association of Bed & Breakfast Inns, (831) 462-9191, info@cabbi.com, www.cabbi.com.

Fishing Passport

Load up those tackle boxes, rods and reels because the California Department of Fish and Game has announced the California Fishing Passport—a new fishing incentive and angler recognition program. With over 1,100 miles of ocean coastline, 4,172 lakes and reservoirs, 29,700 miles of streams and rivers and 1,800 miles of bay and delta waters, California has more fishing opportunities than any other state in the

country. With the passport as a guide, anglers will be challenged to catch one of each of the different sport fish species in the state. As participants fish their way around the state, they'll receive stamps for each of the passport species caught, and prizes and incentives will be awarded to anglers for various levels of achievement. The program started for kids this summer; however, the official program launch for anglers of all ages will be January 1, 2007. Media contact: Carrie Wilson, California Department of Fish and Game, (831) 649-7191, cwilson@dfg.ca.gov. Public contact: www.dfg.ca.gov/fishingpassport.

State Parks Opens Expanded E-Store

California State Parks has announced the launch of the newly expanded E-store at <http://store.parks.ca.gov>, offering passes, maps, books and guides to get visitors ready for that family vacation or an afternoon of recreation at a California state park. The site also offers a broad selection of park apparel, CDs and DVDs, patches, backpacks, hats, travel mugs and more. California State

continued on next page

Inside

- 2 Shasta Cascade
- 2 North Coast
- 4 San Francisco Bay Area
- 5 Central Valley
- 6 Gold Country
- 6 High Sierra
- 8 Central Coast
- 9 Los Angeles County
- 11 Orange County
- 12 Deserts
- 12 Inland Empire
- 13 San Diego County
- 14 Looking To The Future

Parks are visited by 81 million visitors a year. The effort is a public/private partnership with PRIDE Industries, based in Roseville, California, who operate the online store, including Web site maintenance, customer service, order fulfillment and product distribution. Media contact: Sheryl Watson, California State Parks, (916) 654-7538 or Rachele Burton, PRIDE Industries, (916) 788-2130. Public contact: <http://store.parks.gov> or www.prideindustries.com.



Lavender Dreams Bed & Breakfast Cottage

Located about 12 miles west of Redding in the rural community

of Happy Valley is the new Lavender Dreams Bed and Breakfast Cottage. This charming property features a private patio facing a pond that is home to a variety of wildlife. The owners also grow lavender and raise Barbados sheep. Visitors can enjoy a private, peaceful atmosphere. Property amenities include a library nook, microwave, gas barbeque, Cable TV, and many more. Media contact: Karen Whitaker, Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association, (530) 365-7504, karen@shastacascade.org. Public contact: Lavender Dreams Bed and Breakfast Cottage, (530) 357-2239, annettemagee@msn.com.

Quincy Courtyard Suites Open

The historic 1908 Clinch Building in downtown Quincy now houses Quincy Courtyard Suites. The owners, Steve and Hope Smith, have opened the two two-bedroom vacation rentals which occupy the top level of the building also housing the Smith's Studio Gallery at 436 Main Street. The suites provide nearly 1,400 square-feet of space and are beautifully decorated with all the comforts of home. Suite amenities include cable TV, wireless Internet, a fully equipped kitchen, DVD player with selection of DVDs and popcorn to enjoy with your movies. Two more one-bedroom suites will be added in the near future. All units look out over a beautiful courtyard with a fountain, which you reach by descending a spiral staircase. Artist Hope will be offering a series of art workshops

and retreats. Also coming soon is the Alley Cat Café and a wine tasting bar, which will be located on either side of the courtyard. Media contact: Kari Underwood, Plumas County Visitors Bureau, (530) 283-6345, kari@plumascounty.org, www.plumascounty.org. Public contact: Hope and Steve Smith, Quincy Courtyard Suites, (530) 283-1401, rhestudiogallery@sbcglobal.net, www.quincycourtyardsuites.com.

Sculpture Park at City Hall Unveiled

Redding, a city committed to art in public places, has unveiled the new Sculpture Park at City Hall. The 2.5 acre park features a diversity of artwork created by various artists from throughout the world including abstract to contemporary realism as well as mosaiculture. Artists represented in the park include Korean artist Yongjin Han and Montana artist Zak Zakovi whose stonework is of the Stela genre or "standing story stone" artwork. Visitors to the park will find two manicured gardens to enjoy as well—the Bellaflora Gallery and the California Gallery. Media contact: Bob Warren, Redding Convention & Visitors Bureau, (530) 225-4485. Public contact: City of Redding, (530) 225-4002, www.ci.redding.ca.us.

Third Street Inn—

New in Yreka's Historic District

The Yreka Third Street Inn, a new bed and breakfast located in the heart of Yreka's historic district is now open for business. This charming Queen Anne Victorian, built in 1897, is a beautiful house in mint condition. With a few modern conveniences such as Cable TV and Wi-Fi, the home still retains all of her original style and grace. Guest rooms feature period furnishings and private baths, while guests enjoy healthy, gourmet breakfasts and friendly, small-town hospitality. Yreka Third Street Inn is located just a two-minute walk from Yreka's historic downtown, a few blocks from the I-5 exit, and 35 minutes from Mt. Shasta. Media contact: Karen Whitaker, Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association, (530) 365-7504, karen@shastacascade.org. Public contact: Yreka Third Street Inn, (530) 841-1120, www.yrekabedandbreakfast.com.



Elk Meadow Village

Nestled in the heart of Redwood National and State Parks is the recently opened Elk Meadow Village. Originally an old lumber camp, this new vacation

destination has been completely renovated and is now offering visitors three-bedroom, two-bath cabins, complete with furnishings, linens and games. The interior is new, but the original rustic design of the cabins and their redwood framework has been conserved. Visitors can hike down trails amongst the ancient redwood forest and return to the privacy of their own cabin. Media contact: Richard Stenger, Humboldt County Convention and Visitors Bureau, (707) 444-6634, press@redwoods.info. Public contact: Elk Meadow Village, (707) 845-7668, redwoodranger@gmail.com.

Point Cabrillo Light Station Opens Lightkeepers Museum

The Point Cabrillo Lightkeepers Association has completed the restoration of the 1909 First Assistant Lightkeeper's House near the Point Cabrillo Lighthouse in Mendocino, which is now open for public tours. The house, one of three lightkeepers' houses at the Point Cabrillo Light Station and Nature Preserve State Park, has been restored according to strict national restoration guidelines. The house is wheelchair accessible, and visitors can take a free, self-guided tour from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Exhibits include historic photo collections and information about the lightkeepers and their families, and the furnishings reflect how the lightkeeper's families lived during the 1930's, when electricity first arrived at the light station. The recently restored head lightkeeper's house opened September 8 as the Lighthouse Inn at Point Cabrillo, a six-room bed and breakfast. The light station and lightkeepers' houses are surrounded by a 300-acre nature preserve with trails, a nearby shipwreck, and a lighthouse with a working 3rd Order Fresnel lens. Media contact: Bruce Lewis, Lewis and Summers Public Relations, (707) 964-3844 daytime, (707) 964-3703

evenings, bruce@prwebsite.com, www.prwebsite.com. Public contact: Amy Luce, Mendocino Coast Chamber of Commerce, (707) 961-6300, chamber@mcn.org, www.mendocinocoast.com, www.pointcabrillo.org.

Point Reyes

Bird Observatory Opens

The Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO), one of the major wildlife research organizations on the West Coast, has new headquarters open to the public by appointment in a new 20,000 square-foot facility adjacent to 500 acres of restored Petaluma River marshland. The area, which includes a public park, called Shollenberger Park, is said to be one of the richest tidal wetlands in the San Francisco Bay area. Shollenberger Park is active with various species of birds including black-necked stilts, avocets, ruddy ducks, gadwalls, mallards, red-winged blackbirds, snowy egrets, great blue herons, Canada geese and more, depending on the time of year. A guided tour of the park is offered on the second Saturday of each month October through June. A self-guided tour and other interpretive materials are available by contacting the Petaluma Visitor Center. The PRBO headquarters are located at 3820 Cypress Drive, adjacent to Shollenberger Park in Petaluma. Media contact: Marsha Trent, Petaluma Visitor Center, (707) 769-0429, mtrent@visitpetaluma.com. Public contact: (877) 2-PETALUMA (877-273-8258) or (707) 769-0429, info@visitpetaluma.com, www.visitpetaluma.com.

Pomo Bluffs Coastal Park Opens at Ocean's Edge

Pomo Bluffs Park, which consists of 25 acres of spectacular bluff-top property on the south headlands above Noyo Bay in Fort Bragg, has opened to the public. Acquisition and construction of the park were financed with grants from the State Coastal Conservancy and CalTrans. Interpretive signs and viewing benches are located along the trail. Pomo Bluffs Park is one of the few locations in the Fort Bragg vicinity from which to watch fishing boats coming in and out of Noyo Harbor, catch a glimpse of migrating gray

whales, or simply enjoy the view of the Pacific Ocean. The property also provides a valuable link in the Coastal Trail, affording trail users an alternative to Highway 1 and access to coastal bluffs overlooking the harbor, river mouth and ocean. Media contact: Bruce Lewis, Lewis and Summers Public Relations, (707) 964-3844 daytime, (707) 964-3703 evenings, bruce@prwebsite.com, www.prwebsite.com. Public contact: Amy Luce, Mendocino Coast Chamber of Commerce, (707) 961-6300, chamber@mcn.org, www.mendocinocoast.com.

Sonoma County Art Gallery Guide

The Sonoma County Gallery Group (SCGG) has released the first annual Sonoma County Art Gallery Guide including a listing of galleries as well as detailed road map. Sonoma galleries offer visitors and residents alike a glimpse of the county's rich variety of nationally and internationally recognized artists and artisan craftsmen—from conceptual art pioneers to master painters, sculptors, printmakers and photographers. The guide is available free at member galleries and by request at www.scgg.org or by calling (707) 887-0799. Media contact: Sherry Huss, Sonoma County Gallery Group, (707) 874-9407, sherry_huss@yahoo.com. Public contact: (707) 887-0799, www.scgg.org.

Sonoma Golf Club Gets New Multi-million Dollar Clubhouse

A perfect day on the golf course just got even better. The prestigious Sonoma Golf Club recently completed a multi-million dollar clubhouse with architecture that reflects the heritage of Sonoma Valley and echoes many of the area's historic structures. The Sonoma Golf Club is a private course that welcomes guests who stay at the Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa. Located less than one mile from the inn, the 177-acre course has a long standing reputation as one of Northern California's finest golf courses. The course hosts the Charles Schwab Cup Championship, a Champions Tour event, and offers challenging play in a setting graced by a meandering stream, three lakes and views of the Mayacamas Mountain Range to

the east and Sonoma Mountain Range to the west. Media contact: Jack Wolf, Wolf & Weidinger Communications, (707) 575-4415, jack@prwolf.com. Public contact: Sonoma Golf Club, (707) 939-4100, www.sonomagolfclub.com.

the girl & the fig Offers New Guest Cottages and Retail Store

Visitors may now be treated to a complete "fig experience" offered by Sondra Bernstein, proprietor of Sonoma's the girl & the fig restaurant. Bernstein has opened four newly renovated guest cottages called Les Petites Maisons and a new retail store called the fig pantry. Both businesses are located on the corner of Napa and 8th streets just outside the town of Sonoma. The location offers guests the convenience of being within five minutes of the historic downtown Sonoma plaza and five minutes from award-winning Sonoma Country wineries. Les Petites Maisons (French for "the little houses") are individually decorated, each with its own style. The cottages are complete with fully equipped kitchens, queen-size beds with premium linens, complimentary breakfast from the fig pantry as well as bikes and barbecues on request. Prices range from \$125 to \$320 per night depending on the cottage, the season and the day of the week. The fig pantry will bring the "fig" soul to a building that has quietly graced the countryside of Sonoma since 1914. Bernstein has added her passionate touches to the country store by offering take away slow-cooked food, picnic lunches, a coffee bar with pastries and gelato, artisan cheese and charcuterie, and more. Customers will also find a hand-picked assortment of specialty foods, unique gifts, and "Rhône-Alone" wines produced by small boutique wineries all over the world. Media contact: Jack Wolf, Wolf & Weidinger Communications, (707) 575-4415, jack@prwolf.com. Public contact: the girl and the fig, (707) 938-3634, www.thegirlandthefig.com.

Vintners Inn Opens Event Center

The new Vintners Inn Event Center just opened its doors and is ready to host special celebrations and events including company parties, corporate retreats, business meetings, weddings and receptions. Located on the northern end of Santa Rosa in the heart of Sonoma's wine country, Vintner's Inn is a hidden retreat nestled in 92 acres of lush vineyards and surrounded by beautiful gardens. The 13,000 square-foot event center is adjacent to the 44-room inn, its famed restaurant John Ash & Co., and the Front Room bar and lounge. The Vintners Inn Event Center offers six rooms with more than 5,000 square-feet of space which can be configured to meet every need. An elegant setting with a 35-foot bell tower and French fountain at the entrance, the Event Center has capacity for 24 to 700 people and is outfitted with state-of-the-art technology in every room. Options include the elegant Rose Ballroom which opens onto a covered terrace with a French stone fireplace surrounded by lavish gardens, and features ceiling-mounted video projection capabilities. The 600 square-foot executive boardroom has a stunning barrel-vaulted walnut beamed ceiling. Media contact: Jack Wolf, Wolf & Weidinger Communications, (707) 575-4415, jack@prwolf.com. Public contact: Jessica Adams, Vintners Inn Event Center, (707) 566-2604, jadams@vintnersinn.com, www.vintnersinn.com.



Capitola Home to New Pacific Migrations Visitor Center
Once known as "China Beach," New Brighton

State Beach, a 93-acre park located in Capitola, is now home to a new Pacific Migrations Visitor Center. Complete with spectacular views of the Monterey Bay and a family-oriented campground which sits on towering bluffs high above the Pacific Ocean, the new facility explores the intersection of human and animal migratory patterns. The center emphasizes the history of Chinese immigrants who inhabited the area in the mid-19th century and who played a significant role in the county's

history. An interactive floor-to-ceiling "Ring of Fire" map traces the migratory patterns of immigrants, monarch butterflies, gray whales and sooty shearwaters from points east to the California coast. In addition, the center features displays and information on the Ohlone Indians, Spanish-speaking Californios, Yankees, Italians, Japanese, Filipino and Mexican immigrants, who have all added to the regional economic development of fishing, agriculture, transportation, business and early tourism. Media and public contact: Christina Glynn, Santa Cruz County Conference & Visitors Council, (831) 429-7281 x112, cglynn@santacruz.org, www.santacruz.org.

de Saisset Museum at Santa Clara University is last stop for Game Face

The exhibition "Game Face: What Does a Female Athlete Look Like?" finishes its national tour at the de Saisset Museum, Santa Clara University from October 12 through December 9, 2006. This extraordinary exhibition, consisting of 139 color and black-and-white photographs, explores the role that sports have played in the lives of girls and women. The photographs in "Game Face" feature celebrated sports stars such as Marion Jones, Chris Evert, Michelle Akers, Brandi Chastain, Picabo Street, Serena Williams, Janet Evans, Cheryl Hayworth, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Tara Lipinski, and Martina Navratilova alongside dozens of amateurs. Admission is free. Media contact: Karen Kienzle, de Saisset Museum, Santa Clara University, (408) 554-2741, kkienzle@scu.edu. Public contact: Ramona Nadel, (408) 554-4528, rnadel@scu.edu, www.scu.edu/desaisset.

Exploratorium Features Listening Exhibit

The Exploratorium is inviting guests to dive into the sonic soup with "Listen: Making Sense of Sound," October 21, 2006 to December 31, 2007. This new 5,000 square-foot exhibition features over 55 interactive exhibits, forty of them brand new. Guests can listen as a musician does for the patterns that form the structural framework of musical composition or sort out clues that evoke a sense of place—automatic doors and cash registers vs. teaspoons and espresso machines.

Or, guests can experience sound from animals' perspective by listening as a deer does by trying on alternative ears to learn how sound is affected by the shape and orientation of an animal's ears. Combining exhibits, activities, demonstrations, specially commissioned artist-created listening environments, as well as public programs, this exhibition allows guests to experience—as never before—the nature of sound, the ways in which humans perceive sound, and, most importantly, how they listen. There is even listening at home via the Web at www.exploratorium.edu/listen starting October 19. Media contact: Leslie Patterson, Exploratorium, (415) 561-0377, lesliep@exploratorium.edu. Public contact: (415) EXP-LORE (415-397-5673), www.exploratorium.edu.

Ferry Building Line New to San Francisco Bay

Visitors to San Francisco can now take part in a new cruising experience on the Bay with the new Ferry Building Line, an affiliate of the Red and White Fleet. The 90-minute ferry ride from San Francisco's Ferry Building features a cutting-edge wireless audio system that allows passengers to listen to a tour narration of their choice on a personal headset on Bay Area architecture, natural history or Native Americans. Cruise passengers can listen to one tour in its entirety, alternate between all three tours or simply take in the amazing scenery of the Bay. The cruise takes passengers through such historical sights as the waterfront, under the Bay Bridge, around Yerba Buena Island and Treasure Island and past Alcatraz. Media contact: Rick Lenat, (415) 546-0800, rlenat@earthlink.com. Public contact: Ferry Building Line, Esther De Frutos, (415) 901-5253, edefrutos@redandwhite.com, www.ferrybuildingline.com.

Mare Island Historic Park

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation's tours now include a display in the 1855 museum of a portion of over 4,000 artifacts left behind when the Navy closed Mare Island in 1996. The exhibits include the figurehead of the Navy's first Ship of the Line, the USS Independence, which was built for the War of 1812. Also included

are rare artifacts, a photo gallery, models of nuclear submarines (as long as six feet) and a mounted 1950's diving suit. Media contact: Kenneth Zadwick, Mare Island Historic Park Foundation, (707) 557-0662, kenzad01@yahoo.com. Public contact: (707) 557-1538, www.mareislandhpf.org.

Marin County Selected to Host MISS CALIFORNIA USA Event

San Rafael, Marin County's largest city, has been selected as the location of the 2007 MISS CALIFORNIA USA and MISS CALIFORNIA TEEN USA events, scheduled for October 13–15. Both the preliminary competition and the final show will be held at the Marin County Civic Center. According to the producers, the MISS CALIFORNIA USA contest will bring between 150–200 young women, plus their families, to Marin County. Winners of the contests go on to compete in the MISS USA® and the MISS TEEN USA® pageants. Media and public contact: Mark Essman, Marin County Visitors Bureau, (415) 925-2060, mark@visitmarin.org, www.visitmarin.org or www.misscaliforniausa.com.

Orchard Garden Hotel Opens This Fall

San Francisco's Orchard Garden Hotel, the Golden State's first hotel built to the nationally accepted standards for green buildings developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is slated to open its doors on October 12. The new construction, representing a new generation in hotels, followed the "Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design" (LEED) Green Building Rating System in order to earn the coveted LEED certification. The hotel's green practices also include chemical-free cleaning products, a 100% tobacco-free environment, recycled paper and soy-based inks, and the San Francisco debut of a guestroom key card energy control system. Located at 466 Bush Street, the hotel will consist of a 10-story building with a total of 55,751 square feet featuring 86 guest rooms, including four suites, as well as a fitness center, boardroom, rooftop garden and a 56-seat restaurant. LEED is a voluntary program that promotes integrated, whole-building design practices and provides a complete framework for assessing building

performance and meeting sustainability goals. It provides state-of-the-art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor air quality. Media contact: Trisha Clayton, (415) 346-4565, t.clayton@sbcglobal.net. Public contact: The Orchard Garden Hotel, (888) 717-2881, www.theorchardgardenhotel.com.

San Francisco Conservatory of Music Opens New Facility in the Civic Center

The San Francisco Conservatory of Music, which has been educating and inspiring young musicians for 90 years, has opened the doors of its brand new, \$80 million teaching, performance, rehearsal and practice facility in San Francisco's Civic Center, taking its place in the nexus of the city's performing arts neighborhood and marking the newest addition in the area's cultural rejuvenation. The new building provides dramatic improvements in classroom, studio and practice spaces, and will feature three state-of-the-art performance venues; a 120-seat Recital Salon, a 160-seat Recital Hall, and a 450-seat Concert Hall. The move allows visitors to San Francisco greater access to the internationally acclaimed music school's over 360 public performances annually, many of them free of charge. Media contact: Lisa Petrie, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, (415) 503-6265, lep@sfc.edu. Public contact: (415) 864-SFCM (7326), www.sfc.edu.

San Mateo County: As Fresh as it Gets

The new "San Mateo County: As Fresh As It Gets" awards program, recently launched by the San Mateo County Convention and Visitors Bureau and the San Mateo County Farm Bureau, was designed to recognize local restaurants, hotels and caterers that make an effort to buy and serve produce from local San Mateo County growers, seafood caught off of San Mateo County's coastline, and beer and wine made in the county. The campaign ties together the county's agriculture, tourism, and fishing industries and promotes healthy, fresh gourmet meals by educating restaurants, hotels and consumers, and rewarding and promoting establishments serving

local products. The program's goal is to help the county's growers, fishermen and wine and beer makers while making San Mateo County a world-class destination for culinary tourism. Media contact: Margi Grant, San Mateo County Convention and Visitors Bureau, (650) 348-7600 x111, margi@smccvb.com. Public contact: (650) 348-7600, www.visitsanmateocounty.com.



Explorit opens New Science Center

The new Explorit Science Center building in Davis is set to hold its grand opening

on October 13. The new center located at 2nd Street and Pena Drive, will meet growing demands for programs and the programmatic expansion is happening in phases. The hallmark series of changing exhibitions (four per year) will be the first program to open at the new facility and will be housed on the first floor while a new main exhibition gallery of long-term exhibits is being developed, prototyped and tested on the second floor. The first of the changing exhibitions will be "Holes: An Opening into the Sciences." Explorit, founded in 1982, is a hands-on science museum located in Davis and aims "to involve people in science experiences that touch our lives." The previous site at 5th Street will remain open for special programs for school groups. Explorit is open to the public on weekends and weekday afternoons. School and other groups visit by appointment on weekday mornings. Media contact: Suzanne Ullensvang, Explorit Science Center, (530) 756-0191, Suzanne@explorit.org. Public contact: (530) 756-0191, explorit@explorit.org; www.explorit.org.

Squaw Valley Herb Gardens

The Squaw Valley Herb Gardens in Fresno County make a perfect single stop or enhancement to a Sequoia, Kings Canyon and Yosemite national parks or Central Valley visit. Open only by appointment, individuals can book a tour in advance to visit this botanical garden and lavender farm. This year they've added three new itineraries for group travelers to the already existing

program of "Recipes & Remedies" that includes California History, World Spice Trade and Old Time Medicines. The new group itineraries include "Sacred Art & Wildflowers Tour," "Farm to Fork Culinary Tour" and the fragrant finale "Everything Lavender Tour." Media and public contact: Rosemary Nightingale, Squaw Valley Herb Gardens, (559) 332-2909 or (800) 579-8043, rosemary@squawvalleyherbgardens.com; www.squawvalleyherbgardens.com.



California Museum for History, Women and the Arts Opens Hall of Fame

The California Hall of Fame opens December 6 at the California Museum for History, Women and the Arts in Sacramento. Conceived

by First Lady Maria Shriver, the California Hall of Fame was established with the California Museum to honor legendary individuals and families who embody California's innovative spirit and have made their mark on history. The first-ever inductees into the California Hall of Fame are Ronald Reagan, Cesar Chavez, Walt Disney, Amelia Earhart, Clint Eastwood, Frank Gehry, David Ho, M.D., Billie Jean King, John Muir, Sally Ride, Alice Walker and the Hearst and Packard Families. Media contact: Ryan Jimenez, Office of First Lady Maria Shriver, (916) 445-7097, ryan.jimenez@gov.ca.gov. Public contact: Kelly Bitz, California Museum for History, Women and the Arts, (916) 653-7524, www.californiamuseum.org.

Crocker Art Museum Showcases Irving Norman

From September 23, 2006 through January 7, 2007, the Crocker Art Museum will exhibit "Dark Metropolis: Irving Norman's Social Surrealism." This is a retrospective exploration of the profound and shocking works of artist Irving Norman, displayed in the year he would have turned 100. An émigré from Poland and a survivor of World War I, Norman also witnessed atrocities as a machine gunner during the Spanish Civil War. His experiences prompted him to communicate his perceptions of modern

life and the society in which he lived with a paintbrush. Characterized by a unique combination of political messages and technical virtuosity, his paintings reveal a dark vision both personal and prophetic. Media contact: LeAnne Ruzzamenti, Crocker Art Museum, (916) 264-1963, lruzzamenti@cityofsacramento.org. Public contact: (916) 264-5423, www.crockerartmuseum.org.

Folsom History Museum Features History of Bicycles

"Cycle Through History: Bikes, Trails & People," will be the featured exhibit at the Folsom History Museum running October 28, 2006 through January 7, 2007. Featuring antique bicycles from the Pierce Miller Collection belonging to the University of California, Davis, the exhibit will chronicle the invention and development of the bicycle with a concentration on the technological advances made in the 19th century. The history of the American River Bike Trail, extending from Folsom to Sacramento, will be an additional focus of the exhibit. Media contact: David Takemoto-Weerts, (530) 752-BIKE (2453). Public contact: Folsom History Museum, (916) 985-2707, www.folsomhistorymuseum.org.

Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau Debuts New Web Site

In September, the Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau will debut their new innovative Web site at www.tcvb.com. The interactive Web site showcases lodging, dining, events, and activities for Tuolumne County's Gold Country and Yosemite National Park. The Web site also provides information regarding all manner of activities including skiing, hiking, biking, river rafting, fishing, camping, gold panning, sightseeing, arts, live theater, museums and more. Available "specials" are displayed which may include special pricing, event announcements, and various happenings throughout the county. It provides helpful links to reservations and other useful community Web sites and allows Google mapping. An online store provides visitors a chance to browse for pamphlets, maps and memorabilia. Media contact: Sandy Gordon, Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau, tcvbmarketing@mlode.com. Public contact: Nanci Sikes, tcvb@mlode.com.



Lake Tahoe Marathon Adds 72-Mile Endurance Run

New to the Lake Tahoe Marathon Race Week (September 26 through October 1) roster is the 72-Mile

Tahoe Ultra, an endurance run designed to test athletes at the top of their game. The event is scheduled to start just after midnight at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, September 30 on Highway 89 just north of South Lake Tahoe, California. Participants will completely circle Lake Tahoe, a 72-mile loop, and will finish with the Lake Tahoe marathoners and other runners later that afternoon at South Shore's Pope Beach in California. Among the runners is Pam Reed of Tucson, Arizona, who was the first woman to win the Badwater Ultramarathon—a 135-mile run from Badwater, the lowest point in the country to the slopes of Mt. Whitney, the highest peak in the lower 48. Reed has completed more marathons, 50-milers and 100s than she can count. She is a regular participant in the Western States 100, Leadville 100 and Wasatch 100, and has appeared on many media outlets, including "60 Minutes." Media contact: Pettit Gilwee, Gilwee Public Relations, (530) 583-2138, pettit@gilweepr.com. Public contact: Les Wright, Lake Tahoe Marathon, (530) 544-7095, leswright@sbcglobal.net, www.laketahomarathon.com.

Mammoth Mountain to Debut Interpretive Center

The newest attraction at Mammoth Mountain for the 2006/07 winter season will be the state-of-the-art Top of the Sierra Interpretive Center designed to educate visitors about the surrounding area and the dynamic nature of the Eastern Sierra. Slated to open November 9, the center will feature five interactive displays with facts about local geology, hydrology, the volcanic history of Mammoth Mountain, the Long Valley Caldera and more. Skiers and snowboarders have enjoyed rides to the top of Mammoth for years. With the addition of the Top of the Sierra Interpretive Center, Mammoth's summit will truly be a destination for all types

of people in all seasons. Over six years of research and project planning, plus more than \$1 million, has been invested for the initial opening of the Top of the Sierra Interpretive Center. Content for the center was envisioned with input from a coalition of involved community members including representatives from U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Forest Service, Paiute Tribal Council and local environmental organizations. Media contact: Dana Vander Houwen, Mammoth Mountain, (760) 934-0645, dana@mammoth-mtn.com. Public contact: 800-MAMMOTH (800-626-6684) or (760) 934-0745, 800mammoth@mammoth-mtn.com, www.mammothmountain.com.

Northstar-At-Tahoe™ Resort Embarks on Next Phase of Improvements

In the next step toward achieving Northstar-at-Tahoe Resort's transformation into one of the finest year-round destination resorts in North America, the resort announced the launch of the next phase of its extensive mountain improvement plan, which includes two new lifts, relocating the cross-country center, adding new parking lots, expanding its snowmaking system, and additional terrain for winter 2006/07. These improvements bring the total investment to more than \$50 million and will noticeably improve access to the most popular areas of the mountain, enhance the convenience of getting to and around the resort and improve flow and circulation of skiers/riders both at the base area and on the mountain. The planned lifts include a high-speed six-pack which will dramatically improve access to Lookout Mountain and the Backside and 60 acres of new terrain. Media contact: Nicole Cox, Booth Creek Ski Holdings, (530) 543-3132, ncox@boothcreek.com. Public contact: www.northstarattahoe.com.

Resort at Squaw Creek Renovations

Olympic Valley's Resort at Squaw Creek is now offering guests the fruits of a \$53 million renovation. Significant upgrades were made to its 405 guest rooms and suites are now complete with kitchens, fireplaces and LCD flat screen TVs. Additional improvements were made to

the lobby, spa, restaurants and conference facilities. Media contact: Kristen Hunter, Hunter Public Relations, (831) 375-1747, khunter@hunter-pr.com. Public contact: Resort at Squaw Creek, (530) 583-6300 or (800) 327-3353, www.squawcreek.com.

Sierra-at-Tahoe Introduces Burton Progression Park

For those who are jib-phobic, Sierra-at-Tahoe will team up with Burton Snowboards to introduce its Progression Park this season with boxes, jumps and rails all located mere inches from the ground. Featuring smaller versions of freestyle terrain features, gentle landings and plenty of elbow room, these groundbreaking parks provide a laid-back, non-intimidating environment for riders of all ages who want to develop their terrain park skills. Sierra-at-Tahoe will also offer lessons on these mini freestyle terrain features so that skiers/riders learn the proper technique when getting started. The Progression Park goes hand-in-hand with Northstar's Burton Learn-to-Ride Center which specializes in accelerating the learning curve for snowboarding using two concepts: beginner specific equipment and small class sizes. Media contact: Nicole Cox, Sierra-at-Tahoe, (530) 543-3132, ncox@boothcreek.com. Public contact: (530) 659-7453, info@sierraattahoe.com, www.sierraattahoe.com.

Spa Sureau Opens in Oakhurst

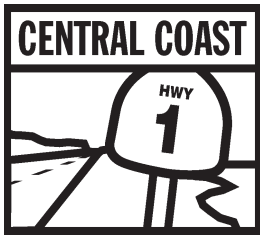
Spa Sureau, located on the Estate by the Elderberries in Oakhurst just south of Yosemite, is now open. Eager to serve guests, the spa offers a Spa Consultation Program to explain treatments and make suggestions. The spa offers a variety of services including massages, facials, manicures and pedicures, and special services for men and couples. Media contact: Dan Carter, Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau, (559) 683-4636, dan@yosemitethisyear.com. Public contact: Estate by the Elderberries, (559) 683-6860, chateau@chateausureau.com, www.chateausureau.com.

Tahoe Adventure Company Opens Concession on North Shore

The Tahoe Adventure Company has opened a Kayak Rental Concession at Tahoe Vista Recreation Area & North Tahoe Regional Park on the North Shore of Lake Tahoe. Tahoe Adventure Company provides both single and double kayak rentals on the beach at Tahoe Vista Recreation Area. Tahoe Adventure Company also leads high quality adventure trips including guided kayak, hiking and mountain biking tours that focus on learning about the natural and human history of the area as well as getting out and enjoying the lake and the surrounding forests. Popular tours include Sunset, Full Moon and Astronomy paddles, as well as mountain biking and hiking tours on popular trails that can be chosen based on guests' ability levels. Trips can be customized to the desires of groups of any size and can include BBQ's, box lunches and one or a combination of activities chosen to suit a variety of experience and fitness levels. Tahoe Adventure Company can also lead group and corporate events and activities as well as providing team building as a separate adventure or incorporated into activities chosen by the group. Media and public contact: Kevin Hickey, Tahoe Adventure Company, (866) 830-6125 or (530) 913-9212 Kevin@tahoeadventurecompany.com, www.tahoeadventurecompany.com.

Volcom Brothers Skatepark

The Volcom Brothers Skatepark in Mammoth Lakes is open for business. The park which occupies over an acre was built to honor the memory of professional snowboarder Jeff Anderson, a Mammoth local, who died in a tragic accident in Japan in February 2003 at the age of 23. The Jeff Anderson Memorial Foundation was formed by family and friends to raise funding necessary to build a world-class public skatepark. Media contact: Jim Kellett, Mammoth Lakes Visitors Bureau, (760) 934-2712 x211, jkellett@visitmammoth.com. Public contact: (760) 934-2712, info@mammothlakes.com, www.visitmammoth.com.



Avila La Fonda Hotel
Luxurious accommodations are now available at Avila La Fonda Hotel

in Avila Beach. The property features Mexican village-style architecture, complete with beautiful fountains, a two-story mural and stained glass ceilings. Guests can choose from a variety of room options including Casitas (two-room/two-bath suites), Great Rooms (large studios), and Spa Rooms. Guests can also enjoy amenities such as a Jacuzzi tub, fireplace, 42-inch Plasma TV, Bose CD player, hospitality bar, gourmet kitchen, in-room refrigerator complimentary snacks and beverages and 24-hour concierge service. Media contact: Troi Hoffman, (805) 773-6996, troihoffman@aol.com. Public contact: Avila La Fonda Hotel, (805) 595-1700, www.avilalafonda.com.

Bonfante Gardens Family Theme Park

Gilroy's Bonfante Gardens Family Theme Park has three redesigned gardens and three new educational exhibits. The redesigned gardens include South County Backroads Garden where guests drive a 1920s roadster or 1950s Chevy Corvette. The garden now includes over 1,000 new shrubs, 19 new annual flower beds and five new animal-themed topiaries designed to delight and entertain guests along their drive. Claudia's Garden, which was primarily green conifers, is now spotted with colorful annual flower beds and has an added 75 specialty conifers. Bonfante Garden's Lily Pond has been redesigned as the all-new Holly Garden and is home to more than 20 varieties of holly and five new holly topiaries. Families are sure to enjoy the new educational exhibits including the redwood round exhibit—a six-foot-tall, three-foot-wide slice of redwood to teach guests how to determine the age of a tree. A new honeybee exhibit teaches guests about bees and pollination, and the butterfly exhibit inside the park's Monarch Garden offers an interactive way for guests to understand the life of a butterfly. The park is now open weekends through November 19. Media contact: Holly Perez, Bonfante Gardens Family Theme Park, (408) 986-5986,

holly.perez@paramountparks.com. Public contact: Bonfante Gardens, (408) 840-7100, www.bonfantegardens.org.

Captain's Inn Completes Additions

The Captain's Inn at Moss Landing has completed a new overlook deck on the Old Salinas River Salt Marsh, where guests can view birds, harbor seals, sea otters, sunsets or plan small wedding ceremonies. The deck, like the B&B, was constructed with a maritime theme, crafted from a fisherman's dory, complete with a bow and stern. Media and public contact: Melanie Gideon, Captain's Inn, (831) 633-5550, res@captainsinn.com.

Carmel Valley Offers New Wine Shuttle

Leisure and conference guests alike can plan a relaxed journey on the new Carmel Valley Grapevine Express. Shuttles pick up and drop off passengers at convenient points in downtown Monterey (including Monterey Conference Center and Cannery Row), along Carmel Valley Road and in the Carmel Valley Village, home to several wine tasting rooms and restaurants. The service runs Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, with hourly stops between 10 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. (last trip back to Monterey at 9:30 pm). The service makes exploring the sun-drenched Carmel Valley easy and affordable—an all-day, unlimited use pass is just \$4.50 per person (\$2.25 for seniors 65+ and disabled). Media contact: Hunter Harvath, Monterey-Salinas Transit, (831) 393-8129, hharvath@mst.org, www.mst.org. Public contact: Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau, (831) 649-1770 or (888) 221-1010, www.montereyinfo.org.

Channel Islands Harbor Gets New Dive Boat

Visitors to the Channel Islands National Park will soon be able to dive and explore the kelp forests with the arrival of Sunfish, a newly restored dive boat. The 53-foot vessel will be situated at Marine Emporium Landing and can accommodate 49 dive passengers. Offerings include both lobster and sport fish dives as well as day trips and sightseeing coastal charter tours. Media and public contact: Sunfish Diving, (805) 644-1499.

Gilroy Fitzgerald House

Minutes from downtown Gilroy is the new Gilroy Fitzgerald House Bed & Breakfast. This farmhouse, originally constructed in 1885, was owned by the local stable operator and city councilman, Patrick Fitzgerald. In 1894, the farmhouse's size was doubled with the addition of a second story and the Queen Anne elements that adorn her today. Guests can enjoy the nearby historic downtown and the comforts of home while savoring the wafting aromas of home cooked meals. Media contact: Jane Howard, Gilroy Visitors Bureau, (408) 842-6436, director@gilroyvisitor.org. Public contact: The Gilroy Fitzgerald House Bed & Breakfast, (408) 847-6421, info@gilroyfitzgeraldhouse.com, www.gilroyfitzgeraldhouse.com.

Gilroy Revitalizes Historic Downtown

For more than 25 years, the city of Gilroy has held national recognition and prominence as the "Garlic Capital of the World." Downtown Gilroy also enjoys a lengthy history dating back more than a century. Earlier this year, revitalization of the historic downtown area along Monterey Street began and is slated for a November 22 completion. The downtown area will feature wide new sidewalks with large landscaped planters, benches and streetlights while maintaining the historic character of the downtown. Media contact: Jane Howard, Gilroy Visitors Bureau, (408) 842-6436, director@gilroyvisitor.org. Public contact: (408) 842-6436, www.gilroyvisitor.org.

Hilton Garden Inn Monterey

The Hilton Garden Inn Monterey recently reopened after a complete property renovation including 204 guest rooms, 6,500 square-feet of meeting and banquet space and the Pacific Grille restaurant. Guests now enjoy rooms with a private balcony, high-definition flat screen TV, in-room refrigerator, microwave and coffee maker, and work space with free wireless Internet. The hotel also features a new business center plus free guest parking, fitness center, heated outdoor pool and tennis courts. Media contact: Mike Boyer, (831) 333-2045, mike_boyer@hilton.com, www.montereystayhgi.com. Public contact: Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau, (831) 649-1770 or (888) 221-1010, www.montereyinfo.org.

Mission Inn of Pismo Beach

The Mission Inn of Pismo Beach, featuring 120 spacious rooms and suites, is scheduled to open in November. Many of the rooms have views of the town of Pismo Beach and the Pacific Ocean. All guest rooms have custom-made Restonic beds, refrigerators, microwave ovens, safes, coffee makers, flat-screen TVs, elegantly-appointed bathrooms with polished granite countertops, and free wireless Internet access. Guests can also enjoy a complimentary hot breakfast buffet as well as an evening reception. Other highlights of the property include an outdoor pool and large patio, fitness room, business center, laundry, gift shop, over 1,600 square feet of conference and banquet space, and a lounge. Parking is free. Media contact: Terence Concannon, Mission Inn of Pismo Beach, (805) 773-6020, tconcannon@missioninnpismo.com. Public contact: (805) 773-6020, www.MissionInnPismoBeach.com.

Passport to Adventure

In celebration of the Central Coast Natural History Association's 30th Anniversary, the organization is sponsoring "Passport to Adventure," an educational game that offers a \$1,000 grand prize. To play, passport holders will visit any California State Park in San Luis Obispo County, seeking answers to 30 questions. If the answer is correct, they can receive a special stamp in their passport at the Morro Bay Natural History Association, Pismo Nature Center, Spooner Ranch at Montaña de Oro State Park, and Monarch Grove (opens October 28). Passports are free and available at any of the four Central Coast Natural History Association (CCNHA) store locations. Completed passports will be entered into a drawing for a \$1,000 grand prize, \$300 second place prize, and ten \$30 gift certificates to CCNHA nature stores. The "Passport to Adventure" game concludes on December 31. Media contact: Denise Lapp Tallman, CCNHA, (805) 772-2694 x101, ccnha@morrobaymuseum.org. Public contact: (805) 772-2694, www.ccnha.org.

River Oaks Hot Springs & Spa Renovation

Formerly known as the Paso Robles Hot Springs and Spa, River Oaks Hot Springs & Spa has officially opened under its new name and phase one of the renovations

are complete. The revitalization project included new mission-style décor, various spa amenities, new street lights, refurbished entrance with fountain, and additional services on the spa menu. Media and public contact: Pam Lyon, River Oaks Hot Springs & Spa, (805) 238-4600, pam@riveroaksgolfcourse.com, www.riveroakshotsprings.com.

Santa Barbara Zoo is Now Home to Penguins

The Santa Barbara Zoo has opened a new exhibit featuring warm-climate Humboldt penguins, offering both above-ground and underwater viewing of these active birds. A total of 14 birds are on view, six males and eight females, ranging in age from two to 22 years old. This species of penguins like it "Chile, not chilly" as they hail from coastal desert regions along the Pacific Coast of South America from Peru to Chile. Considered "threatened" by the World Conservation Union, the total world population of Humboldt penguins is estimated at around 12,000 breeding pairs and is currently in serious decline. Five dramatically colored Inca terns will soon be on view in a South American-themed display adjacent to the penguins. Hailing from islands off the coasts of Peru and Chile, they sport dramatic crimson bills with whisker-like white plumes. Media contact: Julia McHugh, Santa Barbara Zoo, (805) 569-3303, juliapr@west.net. Public contact: (805) 962-5339, info@sbzoo.org, www.sbzoo.org.



Architecture Tours L.A.

A fascinating new tour experience is available to Los Angeles visitors. Guided by an

architectural historian, tour participants can view the masterpieces of Frank Lloyd Wright, Frank Gehry, Greene & Greene, Paul Williams, Richard Neutra and others, as well as the historical styles of Victorian, Art Deco, Craftsman, Mid-Century Modern and Postmodern. Each tour conducted from a deluxe van, focuses on a particular area of Los Angeles such as Hollywood, Silver Lake, Hancock Park/Miracle Mile, West Hollywood/Beverly

Hills, Pasadena and Downtown. Media and public contact: Laura Massino, Architecture Tours L.A., (323) 464-7868, info@architecturetoursla.com, www.architecturetoursla.com.

Getty Center Features Byzantine Treasures

A new exhibition at the Getty Center features a selection of treasures from the Holy Monastery of Saint Catherine at Mount Sinai, Egypt, the oldest continuously operating Christian monastery in existence. In "Holy Image, Hallowed Ground: Icons from Sinai," November 14, 2006 to March 4, 2007, 43 icons, five manuscripts and several precious objects used in the celebration of the liturgy are on view. Saint Catherine's possesses a spectacular collection of Byzantine icons and manuscripts. The basilica and fortified walls were commissioned by the Byzantine emperor Justinian in the sixth century. The exhibit reveals the central role of icons in Byzantine spiritual practices and conveys their vital function in religious celebrations. It also shows how the monastery's geographic and historical position as a major pilgrimage destination engendered its astonishing collection of icons and books. The exhibition, accompanied by a major scholarly catalogue, features a film about the monastery and the site, including footage of Greek Orthodox Easter services. Media contact: John Giurini, J. Paul Getty Trust, (310) 440-7360, jgiurini@getty.edu. Public contact: (310) 440-7300, visitorservices@getty.edu, www.getty.edu.

Holly Trolley—

Hollywood's Nightlife Transport

Hollywood's new Holly Trolley takes visitors between several of Hollywood's hottest night spots. For just \$1, you can ride Holly Trolley all night, embarking and disembarking as often as you like near clubs such as The Highlands, Mood and Avalon. Hollywood has one of the most intense club scenes in the world; these are the clubs that fill gossip columns pages and TV entertainment shows. The hottest venues are scattered throughout the central Hollywood area and Hollywood Boulevard, from La Brea at the west end past Vine Street in the east. The trolley operates every Thursday through Saturday (except designated holidays) from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m.,

arriving at each stop in 12-minute intervals. Media contact: Elizabeth Peterson, EPG, Inc., (323) 464-6575 or Los Angeles City Council, Jane Berner, Jane.berner@lacity.org. Public contact: The City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation, (213) 808-2273, www.ladottransit.com/other/trolley or www.hollywoodtrolleys.com.

Hollywood Wax Museum Celebrates 40th Birthday and New Renovation

In September, the Hollywood Wax Museum will celebrate its 40th birthday and the completion of a multimillion dollar renovation that has substantially upgraded its exhibits and added 60 new figures to the collection. The museum remains open during renovations. Visitors will now have the opportunity to feel part of a red carpet event walking through an exhibit of A-list movie stars like Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie dressed in formal designer gowns. Halle Berry is depicted in the dress she wore when she won the Academy Award. The museum's horror exhibit was completely demolished and rebuilt from scratch, and the science-fiction area has added exhibits from "Men in Black," "The Matrix" and "Star Wars." A separate room now is an exhibit of all of Hollywood's landmark buildings, like the Capitol Building and Grauman's Chinese Theatre. The museum has also added a small events room complete with bar and deejay booth. Media contact: Tej Sundher, The Hollywood Wax Museum, (323) 462-8860 x11, tej@hollywoodwax.com. Public contact: (323) 462-8860, contact@hollywoodwax.com, www.hollywoodwax.com.

Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Embarks on \$22 Million Renovations

The Century Plaza made its debut as the "World's Most Beautiful Hotel" on June 1, 1966 and achieved instant legendary status as the West Coast's symbol of grandeur, promise and importance. In its 40th year, the hotel is embarking on a \$22 million renovation. Every guestroom and suite will be wholly refurbished, the famous Lobby Bar will serve host to after work events and live music, and a new restaurant-bar with outside patio and street access will be added. A one-of-a-kind, ground level, VIP lounge

is planned along with two floors devoted to executive club guest accommodations; a Starbucks coffee shop and an international newsstand will complement the hotel's long list of services and amenities. Media contact: Erika Garcia-Lavyne, Hyatt Regency Century Plaza, (310) 551-3299, elavyne@hyatt.com. Public contact: (310) 228-1234, www.hyatt.com.

Museum of Tolerance Presents "Finding Our Families Finding Ourselves"

Visitors can explore America's extraordinary multicultural heritage in Finding Our Families Finding Ourselves with virtual host, Billy Crystal at Los Angeles' Museum of Tolerance now through the end of the year. This inspiring multimedia exhibit showcases the diversity within the personal histories of several noted Americans: poet, best-selling author, historian and educator Dr. Maya Angelou; award-winning actor, comedian and director Billy Crystal; multiple Grammy winner and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Carlos Santana; and National League MVP and Manager of the four-time World Series Champions, the New York Yankees, Joe Torre. The exhibition ultimately celebrates the shared experiences common to being part of an American family and encourages visitors to seek out their own histories, mentors and heroes. Media contact: Avra Shapiro, Museum of Tolerance, (310) 772-2458, avra@wiesenthal.com. Public contact: (310) 543-8403, www.museumoftolerance.com.

The Music Center Offers New Urban Garden Talks

The Urban Garden located at the Music Center's Walt Disney Concert Hall is an oasis in the bustling urban landscape of Downtown Los Angeles. A new series of quarterly talks in the Garden—sponsored and presented by Estate Gardens by Valley Crest—will feature Brian Helgoe, General Manager of Estate Gardens by ValleyCrest, who will share insights about Winter Pruning on December 13. Designed to provide gardeners at any level with tips on creating and maintaining a healthy and vibrant landscape, each talk in the series features a different topic in garden design and maintenance. The talks are free and begin at 12 p.m. in the W.M.

Keck Foundation Children's Amphitheatre. A tour of the Urban Garden immediately follows each event. Media contact: Leticia Buckley, Music Center of Los Angeles County, (213) 972-3335; lbuckley@musiccenter.org. Public contact: Melissa Perez, (213) 972-3688, mperez@musiccenter.org, www.musiccenter.org.

Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier Offers Internet Access

Guests can now check e-mail while sitting 40 feet above the Pacific Ocean at Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier at The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf. Located inside the café are two SeePoint Kiosks with Windows XP, which allow guests to visit www.pacpark.com, Pacific Park's free Web site for information on events, rides and attractions, or guests can purchase general Internet access. Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier is L.A.'s only admission-free amusement park. Media contact: Cameron Andrews, Pier Communications, (562) 432-5300, cameron@piercomm.com. Public contact: Pacific Park, (310) 260-8744, www.pacpark.com.

Residence Inn by Marriott—Beverly Hills Completes \$4.5 Million Renovation

The Residence Inn by Marriott-Beverly Hills has enjoyed a \$4.5 million renovation of all studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom suites as well as a renovation of the lobby, breakfast area, exercise facility, hearthroom and guestroom corridors. All guest studios received Marriott's new bedding package, new carpet, wall covering, drapes and furniture, and new bathroom and kitchen cabinetry with black granite countertops. The changes were made to create a more upscale feel for the unique Beverly Hills client. Media contact: Michael Cunningham, Residence Inn by Marriott-Beverly Hills, (310) 228-4105, mcunningham@sunstonehotels.com. Public contact: (310) 228-4100 www.beverlyhillsresidenceinn.com.

Starline Tours of Los Angeles are Now Multilingual

This summer, Starline Tours of Hollywood kicks off an innovative, state of the art, multilingual Grand City Tour of Los Angeles. The tour provides visitors to

the city with a cultural, historical and geographical overview that is now also available in six languages for international visitors. The tour features a luxury Euro Coach departing daily from the Hollywood Boulevard location that is outfitted with integrated headsets providing tour commentary in French, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese and German in addition to English. More languages will be added in the coming months. Media contact: Klaus Ritter, Starline Tours, (323) 463-3333, klaus.ritter@starlinetours.com. Public contact: (800) 959-3131 or (323) 463-3333, info@starlinetours.com, www.starlinetours.com.

Union Station FlyAway Eases Trips between LAX and Downtown

Los Angeles World Airports, which operates the successful Van Nuys FlyAway scheduled motorcoach service between the mid-San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles International Airport, recently launched similar service between Downtown LA's Union Station and LAX. The Union Station FlyAway operates every half hour from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. and every hour from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. The 20-mile ride costs \$3 one way for adults, \$2 for children between two and 12 years, and free for children under two years. The Union Station FlyAway features comfortable motorcoaches with luggage storage and porter service. The coaches travel in carpool lanes. Visitors arriving at LAX and riding the FlyAway to Union Station can then take a DASH shuttle into Downtown LA, the Metro Red Line subway into Downtown, Hollywood or the east San Fernando Valley, or the Metro Gold Line light rail to Pasadena. Media contact: Nancy Castles, Los Angeles World Airports, (310) 646-5260, ncastles@lawa.org. Public contact: (310) 646-5252, www.lawa.org.

Universal Studios Hollywood Announces Free Shuttle Service

Free shuttle service from Anaheim to Universal Studios Hollywood gives Southern California visitors a unique opportunity to visit The Entertainment Capital of L.A. while receiving complimentary celebrity-style treatment on one of Southern California Gray Lines' deluxe passenger buses. Universal Studios Hollywood has joined with Southern California Gray Line to offer the new free round-trip luxury

service. Guests who purchase a full-price ticket to Universal Studios Hollywood will board a fleet of colorful, comfortable buses, departing several times a day from a convenient Anaheim location. Free shuttle service will be provided to guests who purchase Universal Studios Hollywood tickets with Southern California Gray Line directly, through Southern California Gray Line offers at hotel concierge, via wholesalers and online. Media contact: Lindsey Mesenbourg, Universal Studios Hollywood, (818) 622-5985, lindsey.mesenbourg@nbcuni.com. Public contact: www.universalstudioshollywood.com or www.coachusa.us.

Universal Studios Hollywood Studio Tour

Hollywood's longest-running hit studio tour at Universal Studios Hollywood, which has taken over 125 million visitors behind the scenes of the movie and television industry's biggest hits, has received a number of dramatic enhancements. New studio tour attractions include an "in-your-face" demonstration of action-packed, explosive road racing as seen in the blockbuster "The Fast and The Furious: Tokyo Drift." In addition, guests will pass within feet of "King Kong's" S.S. Venture tramp steamer, an exact replica of the film's 'bigature' prop from Universal's epic movie remake of "King Kong." Studio tour guests also have the opportunity to see more working TV and movie sets than ever before, including sets from "Crossing Jordan" and the top-rated "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation." A lively new video narration by Oscar and Emmy-winning superstar Whoopi Goldberg along with "virtual studio guide" appearances from "Today" show star Al Roker and "Access Hollywood" hosts Nancy O'Dell and Billy Bush leads guests through the action-filled historic studio tour. Media contact: Lindsey Mesenbourg, (818) 622-5985; lindsey.mesenbourg@nbcuni.com. Public contact: www.universalstudioshollywood.com.



Bolsa Chica Wetland Restoration Project Near Completion

After less than two years of construction work, the largest coastal

wetland restoration project in Southern California, the Bolsa Chica Wetland Restoration Project, is nearing completion. Visitors can enjoy the recently reopened Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve Loop Trail. Once again birders and nature enthusiasts can walk the one and a half miles that cross inland over Inner Bolsa Bay to the Bolsa Chica bluffs and coastal sand dune system. Three new overlooks provide panoramic vistas of the restored area. Also open is the newly created tidal inlet to allow the regular ebb and flow of the Pacific Ocean tides into the wetland areas. With the completion of the Bolsa Chica project, nearly 600 acres of the tidal wetland ecosystem will have been recreated or rehabilitated to protect and enhance marine habitat for coastal and estuarine fisheries, migratory waterfowl, seabirds, shorebirds, and myriad endangered bird species. Media contact: Kristin James, Huntington Beach Conference and Visitors Bureau, (714) 969-3492, Kristin@surfcityusa.com. Public contact: (714) 969-3492, info@surfcityusa.com, www.surfcityusa.com.

Bowers Museum to Complete Construction

Bowers Museum's new 30,000 square-foot Dorothy and Donald Kennedy Wing expansion is scheduled to be completed in October, 2006 and is due to open to the general public in February, 2007. It will include the new Anderson-Hsu-Tu Gallery to augment the existing special exhibitions gallery that features treasures from the British Museum. The new East West Bank Gallery will focus on 5,000 years of Chinese history. Two debut exhibits in each of the new galleries are "Ansel Adams: Classic Images" and "Treasures of Shanghai: 5000 Years of Chinese Art and Culture." The addition also includes a 300-seat, state-of-the-art auditorium and a spectacular central atrium that will be used as a meeting place or, in the evenings, will be an ideal indoor

alternative to the museum's Margaret and Cleo Key Courtyard for dinners seating up to 440 guests. Media contact: Diane Pinnick, Bowers Museum, (714) 567-3642, dpinnick@bowers.org, www.bowers.org. Public contact: Anaheim/OC Visitor & Convention Bureau, (714) 765-8888, www.anaheimoc.org.

Disneyland and Disney's California Adventure Gear Up for Spooky Season

The witching hour of midnight on September 29, will mark the beginning of Disney's HalloweenTime, an all-new seasonal event at the Disneyland Resort with whimsical décor, costumed Disney Characters, and interactive Halloween activities the whole family will find frightfully fun. Continuing through October 31, the event will allow guests to enter a family-friendly world of Halloween delights. The autumn motif will be immediately apparent as guests approach Disneyland Park where charming jack-o-lantern creations depicting Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck, Pluto and Goofy will adorn the rooftop of the Main Entrance. Across the Disneyland Resort esplanade, guests of Disney's California Adventure park will instantly be immersed in the spirit of Halloween fun as they encounter the iconic 11 foot-tall "CALIFORNIA" entranceway letters—now seemingly made from giant pieces of candy corn. Once inside the park, guests will meet an assortment of Disney villains on the prowl while enjoying the enhanced atmosphere décor in the Hollywood Pictures Backlot. Media contact: Betsy Sanchez, The Disneyland Resort, (714) 284-6386, betsy.e.sanchez@disney.com. Public contact: (714) 781-4565, www.disneyland.com.

O.C. Cruiser Takes Visitors to Landmarks and Hot Spots

The O.C. Cruiser now gives tourists and residents alike a new way to "cruise" the beaches of Newport Beach and Corona del Mar. The scheduled beach transit system runs daily 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. providing frequent service between area hotels, Newport Pier, Balboa Pier, Corona del Mar, Fashion Island and other dining and entertainment locations. Ride for \$5 each way or \$8 for the day! The Cruiser

makes visiting Newport Beach fun, exciting and easy. Media contact: Jessica Roswell, Newport Beach Conference & Visitors Bureau, (949) 719-6100, Jessica@nbcvb.com. Public contact: The O.C. Cruiser, (949) CRUISER (949-278-4737), www.occruiser.com.

Orange County Performing Arts Center Celebrates Expansion

The Orange County Performing Arts Center will celebrate an expansion and their 20th anniversary starting September 15 with a six-week festival of performances, including the Mariinsky Festival, an extraordinary residency and festival by the Kirov Opera, Ballet and Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre of St. Petersburg, Russia. Highlights include the Kirov Opera's acclaimed production of Wagner's "The Ring," and the Kirov Ballet in "Romeo and Juliet" and "Swan Lake." The center's expansion features the new 2,000-seat Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, future home of the Pacific Symphony, the intimate 500-seat Samueli Theater, and a 46,000-square-foot arts plaza, an inviting and unique outdoor public space. Media contact: Tim Dunn, Orange County Performing Arts Center, (714) 556-2122, tdunn@ocpac.org. Public contact: (714) 556-2787, www.ocpac.org.



Da Vinci Experience Premieres in Desert

For the first time anywhere in the western United States, The Da

Vinci Experience takes flight at the Palm Springs Air Museum, November 3, 2006 to February 25, 2007. Visitors will be able to experience the dream of flight via 60-plus working replicas of Leonardo Da Vinci's vintage flying, mechanical and military machines. Entering the exhibit, guests will first step into a 15th Century Florentine street scene before advancing to the first of three galleries, composed of transportation, military and mechanical machines. The replicas on Da Vinci's machines are the result of 50 years of construction by a group of Florentine Artisans, who based the pieces on Da Vinci's drawings. Ten of the replicas are full sized, 17 are interactive

and five can be individually demonstrated. Highlights include a Hang Glider, Air Screw (forerunner of the Helicopter), a moveable bridge, spring-powered car, double-hulled boat, and a pulley system, plus all-new replica machines (an actual car, a chamber of mirrors and a reaping device, to name a few) that will not be available elsewhere.

A gift shop and café will complete the tour. Media contact: Ann Greer, (323) 363-8243, anngreer@earthlink.net. Public contact: The Palm Springs Air Museum, (760) 778-6262, www.PalmSpringsAirMuseum.org.

Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Contracts With ARAMARK

The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway recently announced it has signed a contract with ARAMARK Sports and Entertainment Services, a division of ARAMARK, to provide food and beverage services. ARAMARK will operate the Peaks Fine Dining Restaurant, Pines Cafeteria-Style Restaurant, Lookout Lounge as well as provide catering for banquets and special events. ARAMARK chefs have created a menu featuring a variety of fresh vegetables and greens from the Coachella Valley, dry aged meats and poultry along with fresh breads from local bakeries. Additional selections will include market fresh seafood and pastas. Media contact: Lena Zimmerschied, Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, (760) 325-1449, lenaz@pstramway.com. Public contact: Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, (760) 325-1391, pstramway@pstramway.com, www.pstramway.com or ARAMARK, www.aramark.com.



Courtyard by Marriott Ontario-Rancho Cucamonga
Designed by business travelers, the

Courtyard by Marriott Ontario-Rancho Cucamonga offers 117 guest rooms, including four suites. Courtyard by Marriott proudly offers 100% non-smoking rooms with balcony rooms available. The spacious rooms feature Marriott's new luxury bedding with pillow-top mattresses, crisp white linens and extra pillows. In addition,

rooms are equipped with a refrigerator, coffee maker, iron/board and hair dryer. Property amenities include wireless internet, indoor heated pool and spa, lush outdoor courtyard and fitness center. A hearty breakfast buffet and The Market provide a variety of food and beverage options for guest enjoyment. The hotel also offers meeting space for up to 40 people, with full catering and AV available. Media contact: Nicole Fedorchek, Courtyard by Marriott, (909) 481-6476, cy.ontcy.gm@marriott.com. Public contact: (909) 481-6476, www.marriott.com/ontcy.

Fairfield Inn & Suites

by Marriott San Bernardino

The new Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott San Bernardino is now open and conveniently located in the Hospitality District, seven miles from downtown, four miles from the San Bernardino International Airport and 17 miles from the Ontario International Airport. The property provides convenient access to the Western Regional Little League Headquarters, San Bernardino Soccer Complex, Ontario Mills Mall and Loma Linda University Medical Center. A variety of enhancements have been made to guest rooms and public areas, as well as the addition of distinctively designed suites. The signature "king suite" offers separate living and sleeping areas, pantry with coffee maker, mini-refrigerator and microwave, and a dividing wall with a 32-inch recessed television and state-of-the-art compact disc stereo system. Complimentary continental breakfast is available each morning. Other amenities include an indoor swimming pool with spa, exercise room, valet laundry service, free internet and business center. Media contact: Hilary Anderson, Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott San Bernardino, (909) 382-4560, sanbernardinoff@tharaldson.com. Public contact: (909) 382-4560, www.fairfieldinn.com.

Hilton Garden Inn

Ontario/Rancho Cucamonga

The new Hilton Garden Inn Ontario/Rancho Cucamonga offers guests beautiful accommodations with a great location—just an hour from the mountains, desert and southern California beaches. The property also has convenient freeway access and is just five minutes from the Ontario

International Airport. Guests enjoy complimentary high-speed Internet access, fitness center, and an indoor pool and spa. A restaurant, lounge, and meeting rooms are on site. The hotel is conveniently located across the street from Ontario Mills Mall (including Dave & Busters and the Improv), three blocks from Empire Lakes Golf Course, and three miles from Victoria Gardens. Media contact: Tracy Harlow, Hilton Garden Inn Ontario/Rancho Cucamonga, (909) 481-1800, ranhocucamongahgisales@tharaldson.com. Public contact: (909) 481-1800, www.ontarioranhocucamonga.stayhgi.com.

Residence Inn by Marriott

Opens in Corona

Located in the heart of Corona with convenient access to the 91 and 15 freeways is the new Residence Inn by Marriott Corona/Riverside. Property features include interior corridors and 95 suites which have 50 percent more space than most hotel rooms. Extended stay hotel offers complimentary daily hot breakfast buffet, weekday social hour, wireless internet, same-day grocery shopping service, all-purpose sport court, exercise room, business center services, indoor swimming pool and spa, meeting room available, and fully equipped kitchens with full-size refrigerator. The Residence Inn by Marriott is located only 15 miles from Ontario International Airport, three miles from Dos Lagos shops and restaurants and nine miles from Glen Ivy Hot Springs Spa. Media and public contact: Jessica Mahone, Residence Inn by Marriott Corona/Riverside, (951) 371-0107, coronari@tharaldson.com, www.marriott.com/ontco.

Temecula Valley Wine Country— New Wineries Join Scene

New, quality wineries are joining the Temecula Valley Wine Country scene. Frangipani Estate Winery offers a unique tasting experience and a large variety of wines. The winery has spectacular views and overlooks rolling vineyards, equestrian ranches and estate vineyards. Temecula Hills Winery is a new small boutique winery with 11 acres of terraced vineyards consisting of Zinfandel, Syrah, Viognier, Mourvedre and Cabernet Sauvignon varietals. Some of their award-winning wines include Gold Awards for their 2003 Port and 2003 Tenacious;

Silver Awards for their 2004 No Oak Chardonnay and 2002 Zinfandel Reserve; Bronze Awards for their 2004 Viognier, 2004 White Merlot, 2003 Mourvedre and 2003 Tempranillo. A new and improved winery is Leonesse Cellars, which was founded in 2003 and has now added a VIP Tasting Room, Conference Room and Outdoor Patio. The owners have nearly fifty years of agriculture and grape-growing experience in the Temecula Valley and they invite guests to come and enjoy their award-winning wines, exquisite cuisine and wonderful times with family and friends. Media and public contacts: Don Frangipani, Frangipani Estate Winery, (951) 302-7888, www.frangipaniwinery.com. Valerie Andrews, Temecula Hills Winery, (951) 767-3450, www.temeculahillswinery.com. Robb Renzoni, Leonesse Cellars, (951) 302-7601, www.leonessecellars.com.



"America" Docked in San Diego Harbor

A historic replica of the world's first America's Cup winner, "America," was recently purchased by Manchester

Grand Resorts and is now docked in San Diego Harbor and available for private charters, day sails and special events. The modern "America" is a sleek, highly accurate depiction from the waterline up of the legendary racing yacht that first won the Hundred Guinea Cup in 1851 (the original name of the America's Cup race), yet features a western red cedar hull and state-of-the-art modern underbody carefully designed for record-breaking speed. The yacht is available for private charters and special events for up to 90 people and sit-down dinners for up to 20 people. Regattas for groups of up to 130 people are also available in tandem with two modern America's Cup yachts, "Stars and Stripes" and "Abracadabra." Media and public contact: Next Level Sailing, (800) 644-3454 or (619) 231-0134, www.americayacht.com.

Ghostly Tours in History**Spook San Diego**

The new Ghostly Tours in History offers evening tours that explore the frightening parts of San Diego's past, including the city's historic districts, haunted houses and old cemeteries. The tour picks up visitors in a limo or limo bus across from the Theatre in Old Town and lasts three hours, with a 20-minute rest break. The riding and walking tour is rated PG-13; tickets cost \$32 per person. Media contact: Andrea Rustad, Ghostly Tours in History, (877) 220-4844 x702, info@ghostlytoursinhistory.com. Public contact: Charles Spratley (group tours), (877) 220-4844 x703 www.ghostlytoursinhistory.com.

Keating Hotel**Set to Open in November**

Set to open in November in San Diego's historic Gaslamp Quarter, the boutique-style Keating Hotel will feature modern and expressive Italian design by Pininfarina, the world-renowned Italian design firm behind famed luxury brands Ferrari and Maserati. Located in the Keating Building (circa 1890) with a Romanesque-Revival facade, the hotel is Pininfarina's first foray into hotel design and will feature a modern and sleek interior punctuated with historic details. The 35 luxury stanzas (Italian for guestroom) were designed to reinvent the guestroom experience by omitting interior walls that traditionally separate the bedroom and bathroom. Each stanza will feature high ceilings, exposed brick walls, Lavazza espresso machines, oversized windows, high definition plasma televisions by Bang & Olufson, high-speed WIFI, goose down feather beds and duvets and luxury linens. The Keating's intimate size provides a unique environment where one-on-one, thoughtful, personalized service is paramount. Every conceivable need will be anticipated and fulfilled while an on-call lifestyle concierge will be available at a moments notice should the need arise. The hotel will entertain guests with an underground semi-private lounge. Media contact: Jamie Lynn Sigler, J Public Relations, (858) 731-0923, Jamie@jpublicrelations.com. Public contact: Keating Hotel, (877) 7-KEATING (877-753-28464) or (619) 814-5700, www.thekeating.com.

La Costa Resort & Spa

The recently opened La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad now provides its young guests interactive and educational attractions at its new kid's club, Kidtopia, and teen lounge, Vibz. Kidtopia is divided in three age groups. The infant/toddler area features a calm environment that surrounds children with age-appropriate toys, soft climb items, puzzles, and infant swings. The two to four-year-olds' area is decorated to resemble a forest, complete with a seven-foot tree house, and offers an assortment of activity stations featuring books, puzzles and crafts. The four to 12-year-olds' area contains a three-ton, 600-gallon saltwater aquarium filled with exotic fish, a colorful mural depicting underwater scenes, hi-tech entertainment stations with games and computers, a small animal display, and a pressure sensitive light floor where kids can play games and dance. Guests ages 10 to 16 can visit Vibz, a teen lounge decorated to resemble an underground mine featuring a wide selection of music and dance activities, pool tables, air hockey tables, video games and an X-Box gaming lounge. Media contact: Neesha Lahiri, La Costa Resort & Spa, (760) 929-6394, nlahiri@lacosta.com. Public contact: (760) 438-9111, www.lacosta.com.

**Amgen Tour of California Returns With More World-Class Cycling**

The Amgen Tour of California is set to race 650 miles down the state February 18–25. Beginning

with the prologue through the streets of downtown San Francisco and traveling over the next week on a newly created course, more than 150 of the world's best professional cyclists will race through "host cities" Sausalito, Santa Rosa, Sacramento (new in 2007), Stockton (new in 2007), San Jose, Seaside (new in 2007), San Luis Obispo, Solvang (new in 2007), Santa Barbara and Santa Clarita (new in 2007), concluding for the first time in Long Beach. The inaugural Amgen Tour of California generated \$100 million in economic growth for the state throughout the eight days of the race and attracted 1.3 million spectators, setting records for a single sporting event in

the state of California as well as any cycling event ever held on U.S. soil. Media contact: Michael Roth, AEG, (213) 742-7155, mroth@aeg-la.com, www.aegworldwide.com.

Public contact: Amgen Tour of California, ATOCGeneralInfo@amgentourofcalifornia.com, www.amgentourofcalifornia.com.

California Welcome Centers (CWC) to Open on Central Coast, Inland Empire

Projected for winter 2006–2007, the Pismo Beach and Oxnard CWCs will open their doors to provide information to visitors to the Central Coast. The Pismo Beach CWC will reside in the Prime Outlets-Pismo Beach on Highway 101. In the immediate vicinity are four hotels, 11 restaurants, 42 outlet stores and a walkway to downtown Pismo Beach. The Oxnard CWC will be located at the intersection of Highway 101 and the Pacific Coast Highway 1. Oxnard has seven miles of oceanfront beaches and is 11 miles from the Channel Islands. Initially the CWC will operate out of a temporary facility and will eventually operate from a permanent structure at the same location which would be part of The Collection at River Park, a distinctive lifestyle center that will include restaurants, shopping, a hotel and a performing arts center. The San Bernardino CWC in the Inland Empire will be located on San Bernardino's Hospitality Lane, north of the San Bernardino I-10 freeway and the 215 freeway interchange. This CWC is close to over 20 restaurants and seven hotels/motels. All locations will be open seven days a week and will include visitor information brochures, regional displays, a state-of-the-art flat panel screen displaying travel opportunities, direct and wireless internet access, restrooms and plenty of parking. Media contact: Sam Caygill, California Travel and Tourism Commission, (916) 319-5424, scaygill@cttc1.com, www.visitcalifornia.com. Public contact: Joseph Scott, Prime Outlets-Pismo Beach and Pismo Beach CWC, (805) 773-7924; Janet Sederquist, Oxnard Convention and Visitors Bureau and Oxnard CWC, (805) 385-7545; Mary Casanova-Poland, San Bernardino Convention and Visitors Bureau and San Bernardino CWC, (800) 867-8366.

Crowne Plaza Ventura

Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach renovations, scheduled to be complete by the end of 2006, will include upgraded bedding and sleep accessories, the creation of a lobby lounge with windows opening to the beach and ocean view, a 24-hour business center, expanded fitness center and complete remodeling of the meeting and banquet rooms. Ventura's only beachfront hotel, Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach is within walking distance to Historic Downtown Ventura and is adjacent to one of California's finest surf spots, C Street. Media contact: Gizem Nance, Ann Flower Communications, (310) 305-7169, gizemnance@aol.com. Public contact: Crowne Plaza Ventura, (805) 648-2100, www.cpventura.com.

Da Vinci Exhibit to Make Exclusive Northern California Debut in Sacramento

The Sacramento Convention and Visitors Bureau is partnering with the new Aerospace Museum of California, opening in December 2006, to bring an exciting exhibit to the region next year. Many years before the Da Vinci Code became a popular book and movie, a group of scholars, craftsmen and artisans in Florence, Italy, had begun work on replicating the various machines that Leonardo Da Vinci had described and designed in his notebooks 400 years ago. The Florentine group eventually put the replicas on display in private museums in Italy and about a year ago decided to make the replicas available in a traveling exhibition. The exhibit, running April 20 to August 19, 2007, includes more than 60 of Leonardo's machines, many of them interactive. The exhibit has been to New Zealand and Australia. Media contact: Lucy Steffens, Sacramento Convention and Visitors Bureau, (916) 808-5553, lsteffens@cityofsacramento.org. Public contact: (916) 808-7777, www.discovergold.org.

The Grand Del Mar Resort & Spa Set to Debut Mid-2007

The Grand Del Mar Resort & Spa, Manchester Grand Resorts' newest luxury property, is set to debut in mid-2007. The new 261-room resort hotel will offer luxurious accommodations, including 19 suites; an 18-hole, 400-acre Tom Fazio-designed golf course, a full-service luxury spa; Kid's Club; Teen Lounge, and 39 ownership villas. Also onsite will be 20,000 square feet of flexible meeting space that includes a 10,000 square-foot grand ballroom. The resort is being built on a 24-acre pad nestled among the rolling fairways and manicured greens of the lush Grand Golf Club in Del Mar. The buildings will juxtapose the romance and opulence of Mediterranean design with a Southern California flair. Featuring an exotic mix of Spanish, Portuguese, Moroccan, and Venetian elements, the resort pays tribute to the distinctive style of Addison Mizner, an architectural visionary whose design approach launched the "Florida Renaissance" in the 1920s. Amidst the fine art, antiques and beautifully handcrafted details of the landmark property will be a special, uncommon touch: a private chapel. Media contact: Marguarite Clark, Marguarite Clark Public Relations, (919) 295-2801, mclarkpr@sbcglobal.net. Public contact: The Grand Del Mar Resort & Spa, (858) 350-7600, www.thegranddelmar.com.

Hampton Inn to Join Channel Islands Harbor

The Channel Islands Harbor in Oxnard is looking forward to providing visitors additional hotel accommodations as a new Hampton Inn makes its way to town. Work has started on the 95-room annex that will be located adjacent to the Casa Sirena Hotel, located in the picturesque Channel Islands Harbor. The Hampton Inn is scheduled for completion in spring 2007. Future plans also call for the replacement of the Casa Sirena into a three or four star hotel property. Media contact: Janis Flippen Public Relations, (805) 389-9495, jflippenpr@adelphia.net. Public contact: Channel Islands Harbor Visitor's Center, (805) 985-4852, www.channelislandsharbor.org.

Horizon Air to Service Sonoma County

Horizon Air will provide nonstop service from Sonoma County/Santa Rosa to Los Angeles and Seattle starting March 20, 2007. Service to Los Angeles (LAX) will be twice daily Sunday through Friday and once on Saturdays, and service to Seattle will be once daily. Flights will be operated with 74-seat Q400 high-speed turboprop aircraft. With its near jet-like speed, the Q400 will take one hour and 40 minutes to Los Angeles and two hours and 15 minutes to Seattle. Statistics show that among the destinations travelers fly to and from the five-county Sonoma County airport region, Los Angeles (LAX) ranks No. 2 and Seattle (SEA) No. 5. Horizon said its Los Angeles flights will depart from Sonoma County early enough for North Bay travelers to get a full business day in L.A. and return home the same night. The flights will also make convenient connections to many international flights out of L.A. Media contact: Jon Stout, Charles M. Schulz—Sonoma County Airport (STS), (707) 565-7243. Public contact: Horizon Air, (800) 547-9308, www.alaskaair.com.

Ivy Hotel Announces Grand Opening

Kelly Capital has announced a January 2007 grand opening of The Ivy Hotel, a new luxury urban resort in San Diego. Located adjacent to the Gaslamp Quarter, the cornerstone of The Ivy is a 159-room luxury hotel featuring 16 suites, two presidential suites and one signature suite boasting two levels with a spiral staircase leading to a private poolside cabana. Additional amenities include a 225-seat fine dining restaurant, a 17,000 square foot rooftop with a pool and entertainment venue, a four-level nightclub, and 10,000 square feet of flexible meeting and function space. The \$75 million property will be managed by MTM Luxury Lodging, one of the nation's premier operators of independently minded four and five-star lodging establishments and will be a member of the Preferred Hotels & Resorts Worldwide collection. Dayna Lee and Ted Berner of Powerstrip Studio in Hollywood are the principal designers. Media contact: Audrey Benedetto, Benedetto Communications, Inc., (619) 236-8397, audrey@benedettoopr.com. Public contact: The Ivy Hotel, (619) 814-1000, www.theivyhotel.com.

**Museum of Contemporary Art
San Diego (MCASD) to Open
Downtown Expansion**

Opening January 21, 2007, the MCASD's downtown expansion will enhance the museum's ability to serve a larger and more diverse public by creating a significant art museum in the heart of downtown San Diego. The expanded MCASD Downtown campus will comprise two new structures, in addition to the existing downtown building on Kettner Boulevard. The 1915 "baggage building," adjacent to the historic Santa Fe Depot, will be fully renovated while preserving its lofty interior spaces and will offer four gallery spaces. Adjacent will be a new three-story contemporary structure, designed by Gluckman Mayner Architects, which will house a lecture hall and terrace, education programming and art handling spaces, offices and a board conference room. The newly-expanded MCASD Downtown campus—joined by the flagship MCASD La Jolla campus—will further enhance the Museum's commitment and ability to serve a binational community located in San Diego, Tijuana and beyond. Denise

Montgomery, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, (858) 454-3541 x116, dmontgomery@mcasd.org. Public contact: (858) 454-3541, www.mcasd.org.

**Northstar-at-Tahoe to be Home
for New Ritz-Carlton**

Lake Tahoe's first five-star luxury hotel will become a reality after East West Partners and Crescent Real Estate Equities signed a letter this spring to develop the 172-room property, the Ritz-Carlton Highlands, Lake Tahoe. The property will also include 75 Ritz Carlton (full ownership) Residences, the Ritz-Carlton Club, offering 77 residences for deeded fractional ownership, a world-class spa, several pools, and on-site meeting and event space. The \$300 million project is slated to begin this summer with a projected opening in late 2009. Media contact: Pettit Gilwee, Gilwee Public Relations, (530) 583-2138, pettit@gilweepr.com. Public contact: Northstar-at-Tahoe, www.northstarattahoe.com, Ritz-Carlton, www.ritzcarlton.com.

San Luis Obispo Children's Museum

The new San Luis Obispo Children's Museum is scheduled to open in June 2007. The completely rebuilt museum will be located at 1010 Nipomo Street in downtown San Luis Obispo and will have double the space for permanent and rotating exhibits. The Museum's "town square" will feature a 17-foot-high clock tower climbing experience, a ride on a trolley and child-size replica of San Luis Obispo's Thursday Night Farmer's Market. Children ages four and under can play and explore in an expanded early childhood learning space, complete with a larger-than-life size replica of BRIO's wooden toy engine. Media contact: Roy Mueller, San Luis Obispo Children's Museum, (805) 545-5874, rmueller@slokids.org. Public contact: (805) 545-5874, www.slokids.org.



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